FDI in education

3571. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in education allowing foreign universities and institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether allowing FDI in education would hamper the growth of domestic educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing FDI in education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Government, *vide* Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated 11.2.2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) has allowed FDI up to 100%, on the automatic route in the Education Sector, subject to the sectoral rules/regulations as may be applicable.

Reforming higher education

3572. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with higher education being mainstay of Eleventh Five Year Plan, the University Grants Commission has initiated a slew of measures to reform it;

(b) whether, with Government having approved setting up of 16 new Central Universities, UGC has been roped in by the Ministry to prepare an action plan and also to work out modalities for drafting Acts, Statutes and Ordinances of propsoed universities and had set up a Committee for the purpose;

(c) whether the Committee is at an advanced stage of finalizing its report;

(d) whether UGC has also identified backward districts, where 370 new colleges would be established; and

(e) what are other main features of the measures initiated by UGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) is working on a numebr of steps for reforms in higher education. The XIth Plan proposals of the UGC include mitigation of quality gaps in universities and colleges, revamping of Academic Staff Colleges, strengthening of Inter-University Centres, establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cells in universities and colleges, academic reforms in universities and colleges, designing of model curriculum, identification of various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education.

(b) and (c) A draft Bill for setting up of new Central Universities has been prepared by an Expert Committee of UGC and furnished to Government.